DAYS

A. HOYANCE.

(Continued from last week's issue.)

CHAPTER II. "How soon our bliss is marred !"

A cloudless sky overhead, a brilliant morning sun lighting up a sleepy world, its searching rays even lessening the gloom of the cedar, and of the sombre shadowy yews, deft fingers bowls of many-colored roses.

with whose shadow we made acquaintance come h re to-day; for I know, Robert-I last night. The voice spoke truly; the know you only meant kindly toward me, shadow of life has swept first youth out of though you have broken my heart. And the swent fare. But something better than surely, also, it has some hold on me, for it mere beauty or mere youth lies in the soft pains me to see you looking thus miserable." brown eyes; is hid away in the gentle, grave

The face is too thin for beauty, the figure too thin also ;- perhaps if we were to make an inventory of her charms, thousands of other faults would become patent; but by sympathy of the brown eyes, the unvarying charm of the sweet voice-Denis Jardyne flush dyeing her white cheeks.

was always considered beautiful. The sun came pouring into the little sitting room, and enriched the glowing colors his voice. of the red roses, and seemed to bring a faint blush to the delicate beauty of the white ones; and Mrs. Jardyne, lifting her head to k your choice," she said. "You took with a little joyful smele, her hands full of your happiness at the expense of mine, and flowers, murmured as she placed them in a now, now, when, after long years of misery, great blue bowl, 'Happy is the bride that I have love offered me once more, it is to you

thoughts and she turned her head on seeing "go, I pray of you! It is all I ask of you, old Benson standing in the doorway.

"What is it?" she questioned. "There is some one asking to see you, wishes to see you."

ness is most important, and that he cannot

Jardyne replied, turning back to her roses. a tall, middle-aged man entered the room. Summer sunlight flooding the whole room In a very leisurely manner Mrs. Jardyne with its clear gold; and beyond, the dark turned round at the sound of the closing green of the yews, standing stiff and sol-mn. door-that happy smile still upon her face. It was a picture imprinted on his brain like a reflection of the brilliant sunlight that to haunt him to the last hour of his life. illuminated the room-her slender hands With his hand on the lock he half turned full of flowers, to learn what was the toward her. "You shall learn," he said

But as her gaze fell on the tall figure Good-bye." standing so motionless, the sombre eyes | There was no answering word-no sign fixed on hers, of a sudden the color fied from even she had heard-and, without another thicks and lips, the smile vanished, leaving syllable, he turned the handle, and she was the face drawn and agonized; the flowers left alone. fell unnoticed to her feet, while a low s arp ery escaped her-" Robert !"

she looked at the haggard face and miserable. ling snatches of songs as he walked. eves, that they were those that had looked away her heart when she was only seven-

kill with its cold finger all her beautiful figure-into the brilliant sunlight.

There she remained, white and petrified, all her terrified soul gazing out of hereyeseyes which he who stood facing her found it

It was he, the man, who at length broke the horrible silence, taking a few steps near-

er to her as he spoke. "I have come," he said, "only because I was told me that a false report had reached you that I was dead. I only learned," flushing uneasily, "about you a few days ago,

and I have traveled night and day since, to let you know the facts of the case." He was standing close beside her now. Apparently his proximity brought back the

life to her frozen limbs. With a shudder she took a hasty step away from him, stretching out her hands as she did so. "Don't come near me," she panted. I cannot breathe when you are

He took a step away from her, but he answered nothing, and his eyes fell before

"Do not fear," then he said bitterly. "Do you think that it is any pleasure to me to come and tell you this? Why, I would ten thousand times rather you had been happy in your own way ; but something-conscience perhaps urged me to undeceive you, so here I am. Now that I have told you, there is nothing else to be said by either of us, so I am going. I meant only to spare you future misery, for you would surely have discovered the truth some day; butwaveringly then turned away a gaunt, shab-

by, stooping figure, toward the door. "Robert, "she called, "forgive me. You did not mean to be cruel, I know. But listen, her voice rising passionately. "Ten years ago you destroyed my youth, burying it forever in a dishonored grave. You killed my happiness, my faith, my love-everything I had of value; and now that after all these years I have acquired a fresh store to serve -me for the coming time, you take that away also. Past and future, you have robbed me

of everything !" Mr. Jardyne paused when his wife's voice broke the stillness, but he did not turn his head, perhaps he had no courage sufficient to look at her standing amid her flowers in the brilliant sunshine, with all its reflection faded off her face. Perhaps he remembered a expression of the sorrowful brown eyes,

and feared to meet them. But after that moment of irresolution he turned back, and, without looking at her, Denis," he said, "it is folly to talk of grief for such wrongs as yours. This world may nover see them righted, and they all lie at my door. But you must always remember the law is on your side. It lies with yourself alone whether you will appeal to it.

"But you know," she interrupted, "that never would. Years and I decided that such sorrow as mine could not be righted in such fashion. And I do not waver now."

He did not answer her words, but after a moment, "Denis," he went on, "you need not despair. You are yet young. Life has gone very hard with me," a painful red dyring his cheeks. "I do not look like one who will live for ever."

"Ah, Robert," she cried, her voice breaking, "I am not hard enough, or cruel enough, to care for happiness won in such a fashion! and bathing in golden light the tall figure of What have I said," her voice softening, Denis Jardyne, as in a soft white morning "that could make you think so?" And as gown she sits at a table covered with the she took in the shabbiness of his attire, the wealth of a Summer-garden, arranging with thin hollows in his checks, and the dark circles round his eyes, " Surely the past has In the strong morning light we can see her some hold on you, or you would not have He did not answer her, but took a few steps toward the door, and there once more

"It is cowardly, I suppose," then he said abruptly, "to wish one's self dead, but that is what I wish to-day. Life clings so perthose who know her-who knew the tender sistently to those to whom it is worthless. Another moment's silence, then a faint

"Where is she?" Denis askel, quickly. "Ah, dead " he cried, a ring of anguish in

The softness fled away from the brown eyes, the voice grew hard and cold. "You again I owe its loss. Oh," with sudden The opening of the door disturbed her vehengence, clasping her hands together, all you can do for me-never to let me' see

your face again !" With the last word she sank down on the ma'am. I have told him as it is most un- chair, burying her face in her arms, thrown convenient; but he says he will not detain despairingly among the crushed roses, and you many moments, and that he particularly Robert Jardyne paused one moment on the threshold to look at her.

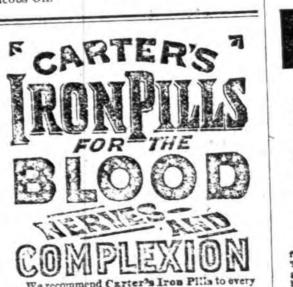
He noticed the prone head, the Summer "He didn't give it -only said as his busi sunbeams turning to gold the brown soft the white gown, with the red and yellow "Well, ask him to come in here," Mrs. roses at her feet, where they had dropped from her careless hands, the profusion of A minute later the door was reopened, and blossoms all about her, the blue bowls, the

slowly, "the first moment that you are free.

Outside, in the fresh morning air, Vincent Halliwell was making his way as swiftly as Ah it required not his voice to tell her, as young happy feet would carry him, whist-

Strong and agile, every movement full of life and hope, without a line on the open brow to tell of the twenty-one years that had She did not speak again, did not utter an passed over the fair young head, he found other cry. Her very brain and heart seemed himself at the entrance to Hawkesley, standturning into stone, as she stood gazing at ing face to face with a tall, stooping stranger, this ghost of the past, that had risen up to who was issuing forth-a shabby, dark

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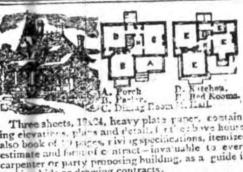
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